

C. S. Deane

A
SHORT ADDRESS

TO THE

YEOMANRY *of* ENGLAND,
AND OTHERS.

SHORT ADDRESS

TO THE

ROYAL ANTIQUARIAN



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OTHERS.

BY
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A

SHORT ADDRESS

TO THE

YEOMANRY *of* ENGLAND,

AND OTHERS.

HAVING heard much said on the subject of the armed Yeomanry in the last spring, and having since been honoured with the command of an Hundred of my Brother Farmers, I trust I may be allowed to say a few words.

The necessity and wisdom of this measure, I ever knew would ultimately ensure its success ;--- indeed in many parts of England, and particularly in the midland counties, it has already exceeded our warmest wishes ; but it must be universally adopted in every part of the kingdom.

B

The

The practical part of Farming, from my infancy, I have made my pride and study, (for of the theory of Husbandry I really know nothing,) and therefore I think I may obviate such few objections as did exist in some parts of the kingdom, and make myself useful both to the Farmer, who offers his honest services to his country, as in duty he is bound to do, and to the Officers appointed to lead him.

If the urgency of the times have not made this necessity apparent to every man in England, of every religion, and of every situation in life, I cannot do it with more effect than by giving you such extracts from a pamphlet lately published by our Brother Farmer, Mr. ARTHUR YOUNG, as are applicable to the purpose. I am the more anxious to do so, because pamphlets of a political nature, however well timed, and well written, seldom find their way to the Farmer's house, and because, as a writer on these subjects, you know not half his value.

“ Here

“ Here then, (he says) are two great results of
 “ this new system which the French have esta-
 “ blished. The landlords murdered, the cul-
 “ tivators of every kind made beasts of burthen
 “ to the towns and armies, and trade and in-
 “ dustry dashed to pieces! And this not the
 “ peculiar effect of certain atrocious proceedings
 “ in France, but the natural tendency of the
 “ system forming itself by an invisable chain of
 “ necessity beyond the political eye that moved
 “ in the whirlwind, and beyond the power or
 “ controul of the Legislators that have ignorant-
 “ ly established it.---The Iron age of Barbarism
 “ is returned---And all that Trade and Indus-
 “ try, Wealth, and Peace, Arts and Science,
 “ Civilization, and Elegance---All that the cul-
 “ ture and decoration of the human mind have
 “ done for man levelled in the dust, and in
 “ their place blood and rapine, and horror
 “ triumphant!

“ What this writer adds of happiness (speak-
 “ ing of Sir James Stewart) alludes certainly to
 “ the Soldiery alone; for an enslaved pea-

“ fantry, and industry dashed to pieces, are not
 “ features of happy fields, or Manufactures in
 “ a state of ease.

“ Here then let us pause for a moment, and
 “ ask our landed, trading, and monied men of
 “ every description, who, on one hand are fa-
 “ vorable to the principles that are producing
 “ these revolutions in the World, or, on the
 “ other hand, inactive in opposing them, what
 “ are or can be their aim, their end, or their
 “ expectation?

“ Annihilation is the palpable fate of the
 “ whole body of landlords ; whatever may be
 “ the meandrings of the anarchy that leads to
 “ such confusion, the event to landed proprie-
 “ tors must be the same ; a few years of storm
 “ and bloodshed destroy them, and their fa-
 “ milies, and the state new moulded from the
 “ dregs of towns assumes their place : the ma-
 “ nœuvres of pre-hension, pre-emption, and
 “ requisition, chain down the farmers and la-
 “ bourers, as they are now chained in France,

“ by the letter of the law, with civil liberty
 “ to console them, but political slaves ; culti-
 “ vating for others, and daring to retain but a
 “ bare subsistence ; real slaves to those, who
 “ would pretend they were fighting to reform
 “ abuses, and establish freedom !—View the lands
 “ of England, and the happiness of every class
 “ that cultivates, and then meditate on such a
 “ change.”

It is hardly possible to rate too highly this
 passage of Mr. Young's, particularly the former
 part of it ; besides its beauty and energy,
 it must carry conviction home to you, or I
 am much deceived.

I beg leave to call your attention for a
 moment to the fate of Flanders ; to its past, as
 well as to its present state. For many reasons the
 comparison between England and that wretched
 country must be obvious to every one ; more
 particularly because where the great body of
 people in a country so populous, possessed com-
 petency and wealth, oppression and tyranny
 could not have raised their head.

Forty

Forty years ago, they were your masters in husbandry, and from two centuries of good management had improved their land, in itself good, and had rendered it productive even to a proverb; this indeed their course of crops did for them, which was invariably a crop for man, and a crop for beast. No husbandry can be better calculated to make land clean, and, as is now well known in England, the farmer rich, than this; from them perhaps we learnt the use of clover, of vetches, and the management of fallow crops; they were second to none in agriculture, but the Chinese; but allow me to tell you, for the honor of old England, that had they existed as a people forty years longer, we should have gone as far beyond them in the knowledge of agriculture, as forty years ago, they exceeded us, in the practice of it.—The future advantages that will arise to our country from this important truth, and the benefits that will result to all ranks of people, particularly to the poor, from the prospect of a general inclosure of all waste lands, are of such a magnitude as to set all calculation at defiance—but to return:—

Mr,

Mr. ARTHUR YOUNG says " The whole fa-
 " brick of Arts and Industry, and Manufacture,
 " which has taken such time, and such wisdom
 " to erect, dashed in pieces ! Is not that a spec-
 " tacle to kindle apprehensions in the minds of
 " those wealthy men, who at Leeds, Halifax,
 " Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester, and Nor-
 " wich, see, apparently with unconcern, Soci-
 " ties springing up around them, whose pro-
 " fessed purpose is to change the constitution of
 " their own country, and disseminate the most
 " lavish praises of the proceedings in France ?
 " Have they no feeling for the treatment which
 " the egotism of mercantile wealth has met with
 " at Lyons, Marseilles, Bourdeaux, Nantes,
 " Havre, and in every commercial town in the
 " kingdom ? Our Dissenters, who are wealthy
 " and commercial, and who complain of Tests,
 " as their oppression here, and sigh many of
 " them for the equality of a Republican Go-
 " vernment---do they see no oppression in the
 " fraternity of Frenchmen ? Let them turn their
 " eyes to Flanders, and there they will see an
 " equal measure dealt to their friends and foes,
 " and

“ and the little finger of the fraternity of Re-
 “ publicans, a deadlier weight than the whole
 “ mass of grievances they complained of, under
 “ their former master. You want in England
 “ tests repealed, and abuses reformed, and to
 “ carry your point, encourage societies, cement-
 “ ed in the jargon of the Convention, and who,
 “ by aiding the views of France, would bring in
 “ a torrent that would reform all abuses, for it
 “ would leave nothing to abuse ;—it would re-
 “ form your commerce---fraternize your wealth,
 “ and, if your heads escaped the requisition of
 “ the holy-mother guillotine, you would bless
 “ your stars for a cock-boat to convey you naked
 “ to America.

“ But there are men among us, in a state of
 “ poverty, thrown perhaps out of employment
 “ by bankruptcies, or the war, who being in dif-
 “ fress, think that no change can be for the
 “ worse to them !—Miserable infatuation !—Let
 “ them also view the French operations in Flan-
 “ ders ! What is the language used to the lowest
 “ of the people, even to such, as were friends ?

“ money

“ money they have none, for all was seized;
 “ but they have arms, and legs, their bodies
 “ are in *requisition*, and the only salute of fra-
 “ ternity—march, or be hanged!!! Ranged in
 “ the front lines to meet the cannon of the foe,
 “ with the guillotine in the rear, they feel that
 “ there are evils of a deadlier hue, than impe-
 “ rial corruptions, and that the iron sway of a
 “ Convention, can bury in equal ruins both
 “ states and reformers.”

After such arguments as these of Mr. YOUNG's,
 and such events as have lately come to our
 knowledge, can there be a man left in any
 country town in the kingdom, who still hankers
 after a French system, and French fraternity?—
 if there is such a one left, you may begin talking
 to him as soon as you please of water gruel, and
 a straight waistcoat, for in a mad-house he must
 end his days—or should there still be found one
 poor misled mortal, in the lower order of life,
 who has not sense enough to entitle him to go
 mad, still wishing for this—tell him, from me,
 that the little he now has, is his own; he knows
 it

it, and knows too, that no man dare take it from him ;—where is the man, who has once tasted French fraternity, that can say as much?

For my part I see but little difference between the loss of great possessions, and the loss of small ones, between the loss of twenty thousand pounds in the Funds, on the interest of which a man lives, or the loss of his pig to the poor man, on which his family was to be supported ;—for each alike must be starved ;—indeed nature teaches us, to attach more value to the little earned by the honest sweat of a man's brow, than to the greatest hereditary possessions.

I address myself to you Englishmen, of every description, of every religion, Protestant, Catholick, Dissenter, and Quaker ; for your cause is the same, and the same must be your exertions ; and if your doctrines will not allow you to fight, you must be the readier with your purse—Let me for a moment suppose an honest well meaning Quaker, receiving his new brethren thus—
 “ Friend, I have not opposed thee ; my religion
 “ teacheth

“ teacheth me not to fight ; thou hast prevailed
 “ against my countrymen ; I will live peaceably
 “ with thee, and will pay thee, what thou shalt
 “ reasonably demand”—before he had half
 finished his speech, it would be a matter of speculation, which would reach the ground first, his hat, or his head.

The fate of Flanders will be a warning to you—I need not call in the example of Holland, which is of so late a date, that little dependance can be had on what one hears from thence ; indeed, they must have been so extremely happy, with their new friends, that they cannot be supposed to have applied themselves yet, to any thing serious. We have heard something about a guillotine there ; but that was only slightly hinted at—something of fifty thousand pair of shoes, of as many hats, shirts, breeches, &c.—and something of ten thousand oxen ; with a tax of five per cent to be paid daily on the value of the whole till delivered : now, though all this may not be exactly true, yet there is nothing in the proposal, but what is neighbourly and proper,

and

and you Suffex, and you my old friend Somersetshire, I am fure would have no sort of objection to send ten thousand of your handsome red oxen to such friends, on such a happy occasion.— A twelvemonth hence, when their joy is a little abated, we may stand some chance to know how they go on ; in the mean time, remember, they have for ever lost the best trade they had, their best nursery for seamen—I mean their herring fishery on our own coasts, which we like brothers indeed, (not in the French acceptation of the word) allowed them to avail themselves of. This valuable trade will revert to us, its natural proprietors. Oh this fraternity ! I cannot get the word out of my head—Defend me from this fraternity ! I would as soon fraternize with a bear, whose brotherly hug is death inevitable.

Mr. YOUNG says, with great truth—" The
 " people of this country have been much too
 " apt to imagine that the war would be termi-
 " nated speedily, and that such horrors could
 " not have any duration ; they should be unde-
 " ceived in this idea, they should understand
 " the

“ the nature of their danger, the remote, and
 “ eventful, as well as the more immediate ; they
 “ should be brought to look it in the face ; and
 “ understand it, in all its possible combinations ;
 “ and above all, should be well informed how
 “ far the probabilities extend that the Repub-
 “ lican system may establish itself permanently,
 “ if not opposed with the most determined
 “ vigour, and on principles as energetic as its
 “ own.

“ While myriads are in the field for the de-
 “ struction of all property, property must be
 “ armed, or it cannot be safe. Upon a former
 “ occasion I recommended a horse militia of
 “ property ; the noble spirit of a part of the na-
 “ tion has executed this idea ; but this is a point
 “ that must not be left to private feelings ;
 “ while the attack is made by such forces, as
 “ never were in the field before, the means of
 “ defence must be proportionate to the danger.
 “ A force should be established that sets all ap-
 “ prehension beside the question.”

He

He then proceeds to recommend, that in addition to the already armed power which is immense, all men between the age of fifteen and sixty be armed, regimented, and liable to be called out, and no exemptions be allowed to rank or profession. Experience, he says, has shewn how very speedily men may be converted into foldiers when necessity calls for them; and he very comfortably, for us, observes "that our Agriculture has not known even the most temporary check; products have been abundant, and prices encouraging---a contrast complete in all its parts to the ruin and devastation with which licentious liberty has desolated France. Let the Guardian Angel of our happy Constitution preserve us from the Dæmon of Reform, and the prosperity which is at present the envy of Europe, will prove as durable as it is brilliant."

As an Agricultural Writer you all know Mr. ARTHUR YOUNG. Some few may think him too speculative in his ideas of Farming, and perhaps

perhaps I myself am one ;--but, as a political writer, I hardly know his equal.*

We had one (Mr. BURKE) whose prophetic spirit traced step by step the progress of this mighty desolation ; but he has shut his book of truth and knowledge from the world, perhaps for ever,---and is seeking refuge from the heaviest of domestic misfortunes in the practice of Farming, long his favorite study, and the only field left him for the exercise of a genius great as his.

I presume I know something of Farmers, and of their ways of thinking, and am to this moment surprized that more objections were not made at first to the plan of the armed Yeomanry. We know how very shy Farmers are, and very wisely too, of adopting any new mode of husbandry, the success of which has not been fully established before their eyes, and is it not for that

* I would recommend this pamphlet of his to the perusal of every man who has eighteen-pence to spare. It is called ' An Idea of the present State of France, and of the Consequences of the Events passing in that Kingdom.'

that reason astonishing, that so many thousands should have stood forward at once, and put on a character so new to them in every sense of the word?—But this is a proof of the real excellence of the plan, and the wisdom of those who have adopted it.

Some thought it at first a job, and intended to put money in the pockets of the officers:—if these profound politicians had ever so little considered the matter, they would have found it no easy thing for an officer to make a fortune of a commission, where he has no cloathing to provide—no pay for his men, except in time of actual service, and, above all, no pay for himself, except in time of actual service likewise.

From my own experience I can venture to assure you, that much money may be spent by officers in promoting this measure, but that nothing can be made of it.

Some country gentlemen did not like the measure, and threw cold water on it, because it
might

might tend to increase the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant : but this cannot be the case. Some thought, too, they might lose something of their consequence, as Justices of the Peace, in the eyes of their neighbours, when occupied in their new employment ; and not seeing, at that time, the necessity of engaging in it themselves, they did their utmost to prevent the Farmers in their several districts from engaging in it also. I will not call their loyalty or their politics in question ;—if I did, I must, considering their situation, and the stakes they have in the country, call in question their common sense : however, in this instance I cannot flatter their penetration much, and have only to say, it is not yet too late to redeem their lost time—their duty to their country requires it—VERBUM SAT.

“ A Stitch in Time saves Nine.”

Some were held back from adopting a measure their own good sense told them plainly was proposed for their own interest, by their Jacobin neighbours, many of whom have since abjured

C

their

their absurd doctrines, or, at least, have thought it prudent to hold their tongues: many were held back by their wives, who might have had more sense, and might have known their own interest better; for if every man stood in his own house with his hands in his pockets, waiting, as the Farmers in Flanders did, to be plundered and murdered, what enemy is there, however contemptible, who would not subdue you all?

Don't let any one persuade you, because you have been all your life employed in husbandry, you cannot fight, should you be called on to exert yourself in an honourable and just cause; if you believe them, you will deceive yourself — you will all fight — every Englishman will fight — it is the nature of the animal to fight. You might as well say, that an English bull-dog will not run at a bull, or that an English game-cock will refuse to fight. I maintain it to be constitutional — so other nations consider it, and so would the French find it, should their rashness, or, what is more probable, their

their poverty and miseries at home, urge them to so dangerous an experiment, as an attempt to invade our country.

Look at our soldiers and sailors—in every instance have not they done as much as men have been thought capable of doing?—and very many times have they not atchieved more than it was thought possible to atchieve. Never yet did the English character stand so high in the eyes of all the world as at present—whether in patience under pain and fatigue, or in firmness and determined resolution in the moment of danger.

Of what are our armies and navies composed, but of the gentleman, of the manufacturer taken from the loom, and the labourer taken from the plough?—Shall these valuable drops of gallant blood be shed in our country's cause, and shall the English farmer, the tradesman, and the man of landed property alone, who have a stake, a

natural interest in the country, stand aloof, and flinch from their duty?—The question needs no answer.

I am sure it is needless to offer you another argument on the subject. Do not stand, therefore, let me beseech you, like a flock of sheep at a ford, waiting to see who will move first, but come forward like men—call yourselves together in a constitutional manner; form yourselves into bodies as cavalry or infantry, more or less in number as best suits your own circumstances, under the command of the gentlemen in your neighbourhood;—they know the value of such an offer;—they will send your list properly arranged to the Lord Lieutenant, whose duty it is to take all further steps necessary for the execution of your plan.

It is impossible to impress it too strongly on your minds, that this is an establishment of the first political magnitude in the eyes of our neighbours; other nations may envy, but they cannot
rival

rival it, for they have not the materials, the stuff of which it is composed.

Two examples I must present to you, demonstrative of the true light in which this constitutional and wise measure of government has been seen; the first is the example of the Earl of Pembroke, a field-officer in the army, now serving in the ranks as a private in a Wiltshire corps of yeomanry:—the second of an honest Warwickshire farmer, of the name of Cattell, who came forward, and offered to serve with his eight sons. His own services, and the services of four of his sons, were accepted.

Besides being the most constitutional measure that could be adopted, for the defence and safety of Great-Britain, it is also the least expensive.—I need not tell you that government allows no pay, except on actual service, to any but to one serjeant, and his horse per troop. This is a pleasant reflection to every man, but it ought to be particularly so to the Farmer. You know

the sign of the five alls: the Bishop prays for all—the Lawyer pleads for all—the Soldier fights for all—the Physician cures or kills all—and the Farmer *pays* for all—and

“ A penny fav’d is a penny got,”
as poor Richard says.

Arms, cloathing, horse furniture, helmets, &c. will not cost more than twelve pounds at the utmost, and what is that compared to your all, which might otherwise be at stake?

Swords, of the best temper, you may be supplied with at nineteen shillings each; pistols at sixteen shillings each;—but it is a question if many of these will be needful; besides, many Farmers have good horse-pistols of their own hanging by the kitchen fire, as fit as any others for service. Every man who keeps a horse has a saddle of his own, at least it is usually supposed so, and here is the great expence saved, because this saddle you may cover with a coloured goat-skin, with holsters and a crupper
and

and breast-plate at one-third the expence of a new saddle. It is, in every respect, just as military, just as handsome, and as fit for service.--- You can get good single-rein curb bridles at nine shillings, or nine and sixpence each, and perhaps these are better for our purpose than the curb and snaffle; they are strong, look well, and they may be made to suit all horses mouths, by having the porte of the bit more or less elevated. Where the time both of the man and the horse is too valuable to be wasted in a riding-house, I think these bridles, with leather collars under them, which you can easily untie if your rein breaks, very sufficient. Do not suppose, Gentlemen, I mean to depreciate your horsemanship, and think you cannot use a double-rein-bridle;— I have tumbled over as many fences after fox-hounds, and broke as many bones as the best of you, but some how or other, I always feel I have less to do, and think of, with one rein in my hand than two. A case in point---in Mr. FOOTE's farce of the Commissary, where the Nabob, who is just returned very rich from

from India, is represented as learning to fence, dance, and ride ;---“ When do you think, “ Mr. BRYDOON, (says the Commissary,) I “ shall be able to ride a live horse ?---“ Cer- “ tainly, Sir, not till you are able to keep your “ feat upon a dead one.”*

Helmets you may have at sixteen or seventeen shillings each. Spurs should be regimental ones, and will cost two shillings and sixpence a pair. You will see, by the price of these articles, how impossible it is to amount to more than the sum I mentioned ; but if it amounted to twice as much, I would advise you to adopt this plan, one and all. I would also by all means advise you, in your equipment, to avoid all unnecessary expence and finery to the utmost ; do not attempt to rival the regular service, and in your appoint-

* I would not be understood to say, the bridle I have taken the liberty to recommend is preferable to the double-rein, curb, and snaffle ; this will always be a matter of opinion ; but, for cheapness and simplicity, none can be preferred to it : two great objects in an establishment of this sort—besides you will remember the right hand is occupied with the sword,

appointments never lose sight of your own character (unknown in other countries) the British Independant, and Loyal Farmer. Your cause is a noble one, and wants not false colours to give it lustre,

I must now beg that you will not deceive yourselves in supposing I am hired to address you, and stimulate you to do what your Government thinks useful at this time, and you yourselves must think nothing but your needful duty. No! I have no merit in life but my independance; *that* I have preserved as yet, and am just old enough to know its value; and I will take special care to keep it;---No man knows my price,

Your cloaths I can hardly call an expence—cloaths, at all events, you must wear; and none more honourable upon earth than these. I desired the Farmers I have the honour to command, to make a point of wearing their uniforms every Sunday at Church, which they did;
many

many good effects were the result of it—it gave their new occupation a degree of solemnity, in their own eyes, it might not otherwise have had, and it taught the lower orders of people to look at them with respect, and very shortly without surprize.

You may be told, you will never be soldiers; because you are not quite as erect in your persons as soldiers usually are; or your sword may get between your legs, and people may laugh at you for it—but this is not so—a little practice and a willing heart will soon make a man a soldier, and a good one; and, allow me to tell you, I have conversed with many officers, who have seen service, and I never met with one of them, young or old, who did not speak of this institution in the highest terms of respect. They all know the value of your services, and will be proud to act with you, should ever the defence of your country call you from your useful occupations into the field.

Indeed,

Indeed, a Cavalry Officer, of the highest military reputation, who served the whole war on the Continent, has been kind enough to promise a Treatise on the degree of discipline necessary for Corps of this description, and the duties that might be required of them on actual service.— I hope his numerous avocations will not long delay the publication of a work, so truly valuable at this time.

Officers commanding bodies of yeomanry must make it an established rule to call farmers from their business, as little as possible. In grazing countries, farmers may attain a degree of perfection in their manœuvres, that in tillage countries it would be folly to aim at; because the grazier has little to do, at certain times of the year, but to ride about his ground, and see his stock; at the seasons of fairs and markets, he should be left entirely to himself: his very existence, as a grazier, depends on his well or ill doing, in the buying in or selling out his stock. Jobbers in cattle, too, should have as much as possible of their

their time at command. Farmers in tillage countries should, on no terms whatever, be taken from their business, for the purpose of practice at certain seasons of the year; at hay and corn harvest, at the season for sowing spring corn and wheat, or at the season for turnip sowing and fallowing, on which good and clean crops much depend: their horses, too, should not be interrupted in the short rest allowed them from labour. In such countries, I think farmers, when their business will allow them, should practise on foot. Their horses will easily be brought to perform any movement the rider is well acquainted with.

There are some sorts of irregular service, in which the yeomanry corps may be employed, in preference to the troops of the line: for instance, in driving stock into the more inland counties, in case of invasion. In eating roast beef, no part of our community can outdo the British Soldier, nor are any more deserving of it; but I cannot help thinking *their* mode of applying

plying the bayonet, better suited to the breast of a hungry Frenchman, than to the rump of a fat English ox.

In all volunteer corps, where no pay is received, except in time of actual service, a fund for any occasional extra expences cannot be established, as is done in the regular service: in this case I think officers, to whom their pay in time of service is no object, would do well to apply it to this purpose:—it would be attended with many good effects, because at certain times of the year farmers, and substantial ones too, may not be able to command two guineas when called on suddenly—for instance, after paying rent, or laying out their money at fairs, as very often happens; in these cases it would be useful, or in case of sickness on duty. I would not be understood to say that officers in such corps, of a large nominal income, should think it absolutely necessary to adopt this plan, for one man may be poor on thousands, and another rich on hundreds; but where an officer can, without injury

jury to himself, spare his pay, or a body of officers contribute their quota towards such a fund, it would be attended with the very best effects. It was ever my intention to apply my own pay to this purpose: and I hope, gentlemen, you will do me the justice to believe I should not now have said it, but to prove that I would not advise others to do what I did not think advisable to do myself.

This applies likewise to volunteer corps of infantry, such as ought to be established in sea-port towns in the kingdom. In many towns I have seen such corps established, and with great success. An hour's exercise, two or three times a week, cannot trespass on much of the tradesman's time, and in his sedentary employment may be very beneficial to his health.

I have heard, that the cities of Bath and Bristol have not shewn their usual alacrity in standing forward in defence of the general cause—I should think this could hardly be true—
because

because their loyalty and good disposition to government is notorious; or, if it should be true, by a little immediate exertion they may easily make up for their lost time.

Englishmen, of every description, learn this important truth, that from the hour when any one corps, established for the protection of this island, or our sister kingdom Ireland, shall receive orders to leave its peaceful occupations, and draw the sword against an invading enemy, should such a moment arrive, from that moment, I say, there can exist but two descriptions of people—those who fight for their country, and those who fight against it.

Let every man consider this well, and take care that his exertions be in season, such as will gain him the thanks of his fellow-citizens, not their reproaches. If there be any among you who think they can avoid the expence of their equipment, and shelter themselves behind the general energy, so needful at a time like this, and

stand

stand tame spectators at such a moment, quickly undeceive them.—You all know the situation of every man in your several circles, what exertions he is capable of making, and what will be required of him; if he does not exert himself, as he ought, hold as little communication as possible with him, even in his business, or rather hold none—avoid him as you would a pestilence—should he prove a rotten sheep, an enemy to his merciful government and his country, you will soon detect him.

He is a bold man, indeed, who can long stand up against the just reproaches and contempt of his neighbours, and the more bitter reflection of having shrunk back from his duty in the hour of trial.

Never having been in Ireland, I cannot judge how far any part of the few ideas I have ventured to suggest, may be applicable to that country, in common with this. I only know she wants nothing to stimulate her to exertions—the

page of history will record her noble conduct to this country. We, of the present time, ruminate on it with silent gratitude—I dare not use the word fraternity, but this is indeed the conduct of a sister to a brother.

I shall never, to the hour of my death, see an Irish hay-maker in the month of June at Paddington or at Hyde-park Corner, or an Irish chairman in St. James's-street, but I shall think with respect and veneration of the country that bore him. Q

Before the last growth of moderation and humanity in France, the return of which even in a rival, and in an enemy, we greet with welcome, they called us the Tyrants of the Thames; and among us some few might be found simple enough to agree with these gentlemen of the Convention. An Englishman must have a grievance of some sort to torment him—it is in his nature, which cannot be controuled; and, where he cannot find real grievances, or oppression, he must have

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imaginary

imaginary ones : --- However, for my part, I know of no tyranny among us, but that of confining men's heads to their proper places, whether they will or no, in spite of all their endeavours to get rid of them, and be in the fashion, there they are in the same place, just as if they were nailed to their shoulders. --- This is the only tyranny, the only oppression I know among us, and the only one indeed I trust I ever shall know. — Ask the poor of this country, and where oppression is, they must feel it first—Ask them, if they found any oppression in the unbounded charity of all ranks of people to them during this late severe season ? —and I may venture to say they will tell you, No!—there is none.

These are times worth living in—these are not the times when men can prosper much in borrowed plumes — it is now no difficult matter to separate the sheep from the goats ; and proud I am to live in such times, awful as the scene is around us, when men are taught that
abilities,

abilities, however splendid, without good character, are nothing worth.—Men in high situations, as well as in low ones, have discovered this admirable truth, and find themselves, to their eternal sorrow, a ship without a rudder.—Do not suppose, when I say this, I can see without feeling the ruin and devastation around us —For the miseries of surrounding nations, for the miseries of France, that distracted country, my heart, as an Englishman, bleeds—and that they may shortly end shall be my constant prayer!—Or, as one delighting in husbandry from my childhood, can I behold the havock spread around us with indifference?—We Farmers are not the men to court war, and its attending ravages—human blood is not the manure our fields would rejoice in, and there is little doubt that France will soon be in the same mind—satisfied, that with returning humanity she deserves liberty, and will soon find the way to obtain it — satisfied also that we Englishmen not only possess liberty, in its true sense, but that we are worthy to possess it.

The age of trifling is gone---in France it died a violent death, in England a natural one, and attention to useful occupations and energy have taken its place.

Have we not a right now to be proud of our profession, as Farmers, when we see the first men in the country anxious to learn it as a trade—and women, not old ones, who have nothing else to do, but young women, who possess all that wealth, splendour, and fashion can give, studying it as a science, and our King himself applying every leisure moment to it with an attention the subject itself so highly merits?

Under such considerations I lay my hand on my heart, and say, I would not exchange the command I bear of an hundred English Yeomen, for any rank or title Europe has at this moment in its power to bestow.

A country so disposed to apply every moment to useful and honourable studies like these,
and

and possessing such a Navy as ours, what has she to fear?—You have heard much lately of Prophecies, of Millers with two thumbs, and five or six Kings in England in one day. I will give you a plain and short prophecy that shall hold up its head among a million such old woman's stories as these :

“ England ne'er shall rue,

“ If to herself she but prove true.”

February 23d, 1795.

F I N I S.



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